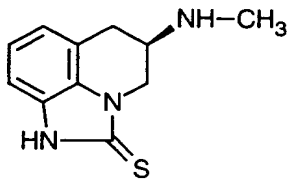
CLAIM

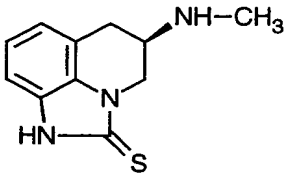
1. A compound of the formula



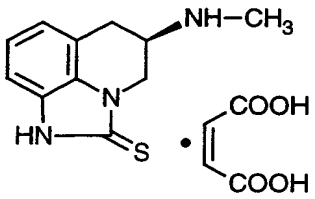
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 where the pharmaceutically acceptable salts are selected from the group consisting of salts of the following acids hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, phosphoric, nitric, citric, methanesulfonic, CH_3-$(CH_2)_{n1}$-COOH where n_1 is 0 thru 4, HOOC-$(CH_2)n_1$-COOH where n is as defined above, HOOC-CH=CH-COOH and ϕ-COOH.

3. A compound according to claim 1 which is



4. A compound according to claim 3 which is



5. (5R)-5-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-thione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. A compound according to claim 5 where the pharmaceutically acceptable salts are selected from the group consisting of consisting of salts of the following acids hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, phosphoric, nitric, citric, methanesulfonic, CH_3-

$(CH_2)_{n1}$-COOH where n_1 is 0 thru 4, HOOC-$(CH_2)n_1$-COOH where n is as defined above, HOOC-CH=CH-COOH and ϕ-COOH.

7. A compound according to claim 5 which is (5R)-5-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-thione.

8. A compound according to claim 7 which is (5R)-5-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-thione maleate.

9. A process for the preparation of (5R)-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-thione which comprises:

(1) contacting (5R)-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-one or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof with tetraphosphorous decasulfide and

(2) heating to more than 100°.

10. A process according to claim 9 where the heating is to about 125°.

11. A process according to claim 9 where the solvent is pyridine.

12. A process according to claim 9 where the (5R)-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-one is present as the free base.

13. A process according to claim 9 where the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is selected from the group consisting of the salts of the following acids hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, phosphoric, nitric, citric, methanesulfonic CH_3-$(CH_2)_{n1}$-COOH where n_1 is 0 thru 4, HOOC-$(CH_2)n_1$-COOH where n is as defined above, HOOC-CH=CH-COOH, ϕ-COOH.

14. A process according to claim 9 where the (5R)-(methylamino)-5,6-dihydro-4H-imidazo[4,5,1-ij]quinoline-2(1H)-one is present as the hydrochloride salt.